

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT:

Karen Terrill
Information Officer
(916) 653-5123

**RELEASE
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Media Day at the CDF Academy

Reporters and Photographers to Participate in Firefighter Training Exercises

Sacramento- What is it like to drive a fire engine with the siren blaring? What is it like to crawl through a confined space and rescue someone? How does it feel to drive a response vehicle on slick pavement and pull it out of a slide? Or save someone from a crashed car using the Jaws-of-Life? News reporters and photographers will soon have the chance to find out.

On Wednesday May 15, 2002, (sign-up beginning at 8:00 A.M) the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) will open its Academy to the press so that reporters and photographers can get first-hand experience with the kind of training our firefighters go through. "We'll let media representatives drive emergency response vehicles under challenging situations, tear a car apart using the Jaws-of-Life, fight a wildfire in a miniature community, and much more. We'll make it fun, and informative", said Bill Cote, Academy Administrator.

"We have some new training props at the Academy this year that are very realistic. Reporters will develop a deeper appreciation about what our firefighters are being prepared for." said Jim Wright, Deputy Director for Fire Protection.

These are just some of the activities for reporters and photographers:

- Drive a fire engine through an obstacle course (including backing up)
- Drive a sedan on the skid pan (defensive driving skills prop)
- Participate in a "rescue" using the Jaws of Life to take a car apart
- Fight a wildfire in a miniature community (table top exercise)
- Deploy a fire shelter in 30 seconds or less.

There will also be plenty of demonstrations that can be observed for those who'd like to be a little less hands-on". For

instance, unless they are dispatched on a fire, we will have a helicopter “short haul” rescue demonstration. From behind safety glass, the press can observe a rescue in a burning building and much more.

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes to experience first-hand the training of the firefighters who will be protecting the lives and property of California this fire season.

Media Day at the CDF Academy

Wednesday morning May 15, 2002

Sign up starting at 8:00 A.M.

Safety Briefing at 9:00 A.M. (Mandatory for all participants!)

Lunch at 12:30

4501 State Highway 104

Ione, California

(209) 274-2426

Directions: Take Highway 99 to 104 (Rancho Seco exit). The Academy is about 10 miles past Rancho Seco. It is about one hour driving time south of Sacramento.

Although we welcome last minute arrivals, we would appreciate a call with names of those planning to attend. This will help us determine the safety gear and lunches we will need.

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